

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows, thereby resulting in the Abstract page on the following separate sheet:

A convertible threaded compression device connects a bone fragment to an anchor bone for a healing duration. The compression device has a distal bone penetration section which is advanced into the bone and a proximal bone exterior section. The proximal bone exterior section is longer than the bone penetration section, ~~and thus extends substantially out of the bone during healing of the bone~~. The bone penetration section includes a distal bone anchor section which threadingly engages the anchor bone, and a proximal fragment section of smaller diameter. ~~The fragment section which~~ fits within the overbore created by ~~advancing~~ the bone anchor section through the bone fragment, and ~~thus extends through but does not positively engage the bone fragment~~. A compression engagement on a distal end of the bone exterior section provides a compression shoulder. ~~In one embodiment the compression engagement is provided by a threaded compression nut, while in another embodiment the compression engagement is permanent affixed to the bone wire~~. The shoulder makes substantial contact with an exterior surface of the bone fragment, biasing the bone fragment toward the anchor bone with a controlled compression force. ~~After insertion, a proximal end of the compression device may be cut off to convert it into a fixed length screw device. The compression engagement is further adapted, such as through thread form and/or with a sloped proximal side, to enable enables~~ the device to be ~~more~~ easily removed from the healed fracture without damaging surrounding tissue.

CONVERTIBLE THREADED COMPRESSION DEVICE
AND METHOD OF USE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A convertible threaded compression device connects a bone fragment to an anchor bone for a healing duration. The compression device has a distal bone penetration section which is advanced into the bone and a proximal bone exterior section. The proximal bone exterior section is longer than the bone penetration section. The bone penetration section includes a distal bone anchor section which threadingly engages the anchor bone, and a proximal fragment section which fits within the overbore created by the bone anchor section. A compression engagement on a distal end of the bone exterior section provides a compression shoulder. The shoulder makes substantial contact with an exterior surface of the bone fragment, biasing the bone fragment toward the anchor bone with a controlled compression force. The compression engagement enables the device to be easily removed from the healed fracture without damaging surrounding tissue.